

HOW TO ACQUIRE GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP





HOW TO ACQUIRE GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP IF YOU ARE A STATELESS PERSON, REFUGEE OR A HUMANITARIAN STATUS HOLDER IN GEORGIA?

What should you know about Georgian citizenship?

Citizenship of Georgia indicates a legal bond of a person to Georgia. This bond is manifested in the rights and duties that a citizen and the state have towards each other. The state protects citizen's rights and freedoms on the territory of Georgia as well as beyond its borders.

Deprivation of Georgian citizenship is prohibited by the Constitution of Georgia.

As a citizen of Georgia, you are equal before the law regardless of race, color of skin, language, sex, religion, political or other opinions, national, ethnic and social affiliation, origin, property or social status, place of residence or any other characteristics. You as a citizen shall abide by the Constitution and other normative acts of Georgia, protect the country's territorial integrity and be committed to the interests of Georgia.

Once you are provided with the citizenship, you will be eligible for the following rights and benefits as per the Georgian legislation:

- statutory benefits (voucher; state grant) when receiving education
- state-run healthcare and social welfare programs
- employment in public service
- participate in the elections

HOW TO ACQUIRE GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP?

There are two ways to acquire Georgian citizenship, by birth and through naturalization.

Acquisition of Georgian citizenship by birth is possible only if:

- a) a person, at whose birth one of his/her parents is a Georgian citizen;
- b) a person born on the territory of Georgia through surrogacy, if the country of citizenship of neither of his/her parents recognizes this person as its citizen;
- c) a child born in the territory of Georgia to persons having a status of stateless person in Georgia;
- d) a person born on the territory of Georgia, one of whose parents has a status of a stateless person in Georgia and the other parent is unknown.

Naturalization is the process through which a foreign national or stateless person acquires Georgian citizenship through one of the following procedures:

- Granting citizenship under regular procedure
- Granting citizenship under simplified procedure
- Granting citizenship by way of exception
- Granting citizenship by way of its restoration.

Transitional provision of establishing and obtaining Georgian citizenship

The following persons who have not acquired Georgian citizenship by birth or through naturalization are deemed Georgian citizens:

- a) persons born before 31 March 1975, who have resided in Georgia for a combined period of at least five years, who were in the territory of Georgia on 31 March 1993, and have not acquired foreign citizenship;
- b) persons born after 31 March 1975, who resided in Georgia on 31 March 1993 and have not acquired foreign citizenship;
- c) persons born in the territory of Georgia who have left the territory of Georgia after 21 December 1991, and thus do not meet the requirements of subparagraphs (a) and (b), unless they have acquired foreign citizenship.

■ Persons born in the territory of Georgia, whose Georgian citizenship cannot be established under the abovementioned provision may acquire Georgian citizenship under special procedure if he/she knows the Georgian within the established limits, the history of Georgia and the fundamental principles of law and if there are no grounds for refusal to grant Georgian citizenship by naturalisation.

Terms of service and service fee for granting citizenship of Georgia under special procedure is similar to the one applicable to regular procedure.

WHO CAN SEEK AND APPLY FOR GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP?

A person applying for Georgian citizenship shall be of legal age. In case of a minor, an applicant can be his/her legal representative: a parent, a guardian or a caregiver.

An applicant applying for citizenship of Georgia shall submit an application form and relevant documents either personally or through an authorized representative.

WHICH PUBLIC AGENCY SHALL AN APPLICATION FOR GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP BE LODGED?

A stateless person, refugee or humanitarian status holder residing in Georgia shall apply for the Georgian citizenship to a branch of the Public Service Hall or Community Centers or a territorial office of the Public Service Development Agency. An applicant living outside of Georgia shall apply to a relevant diplomatic mission or a consular office of Georgia abroad.

An application form for Georgian citizenship (acquiring Georgian citizenship by birth, naturalization, establishment of Georgian citizenship and etc.) is available at a branch of the Public Service Hall or Community Centers or a territorial office of the Public Service Development Agency

WHAT CRITERIA SHALL BE MET BY A PERSON TO QUALIFY FOR THE GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP UNDER REGULAR PROCEDURE?

- to be a lawful resident of Georgia for the last 10 consecutive years;
- to know the official language (Georgian);
- to know the history of Georgia and the fundamental principles of law;
- to have a job or own a real estate in Georgia; or to carry out a business activity in Georgia and/or hold an interest or shares in a Georgian enterprise (this criteria does not apply to persons having a refugee status in Georgia).

Please note: A minor born on the territory of Georgia who has a refugee status or a status of a stateless person in Georgia and has been living in Georgia for five years, shall be granted Georgian citizenship under regular procedure without checking of grounds for refusing to acquire Georgian citizenship by naturalization.

WHAT DOCUMENTS SHALL A PERSON SUBMIT FOR ACQUISITION OF GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP UNDER REGULAR PROCEDURE?

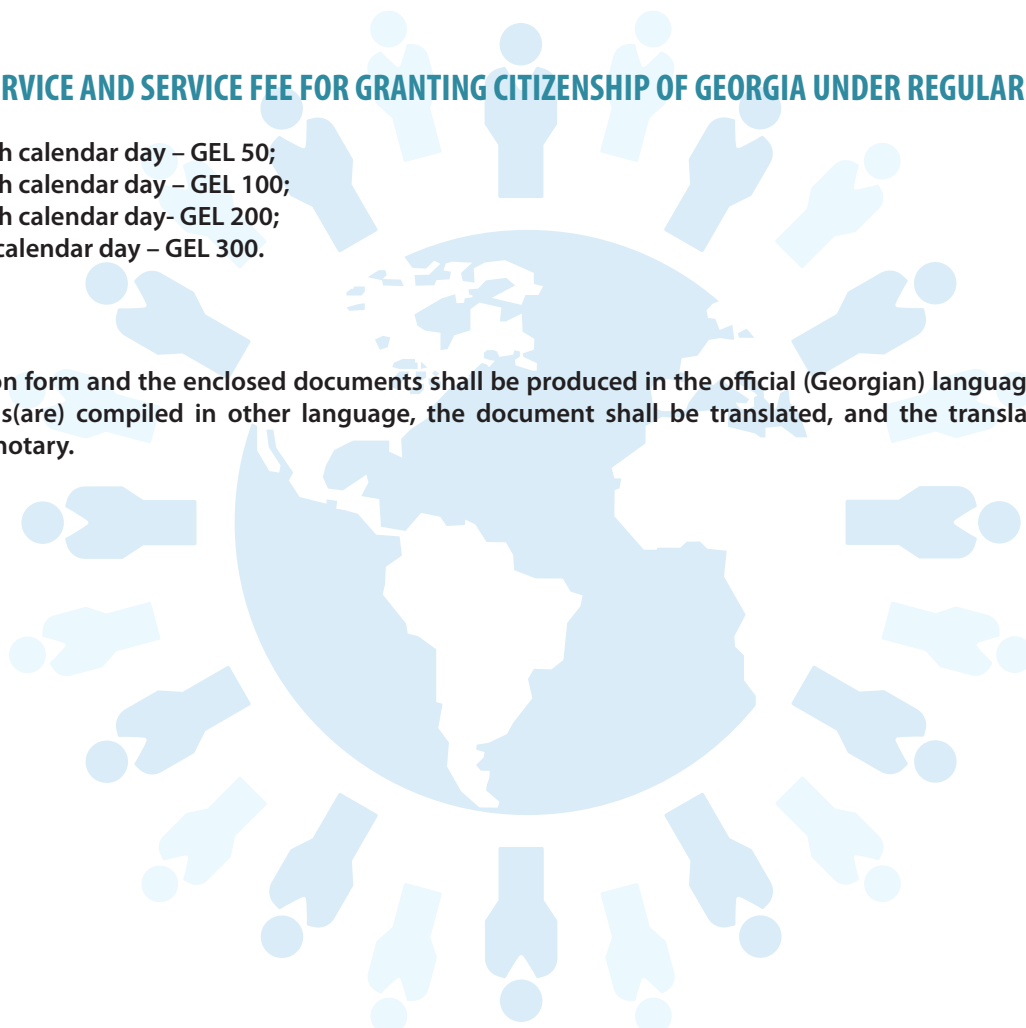
- an application for granting Georgian citizenship under regular procedure;
- a copy of birth certificate (if a person was born abroad);
- a copy of document evidencing that a person has been legally and continuously residing in Georgia for the past 10 years prior to submitting the application (a copy of ID card, residence permit);
- a copy of document evidencing employment or ownership of a real estate in Georgia, or business activity and/or holding of share/interest in a Georgian enterprise (this document does not apply to refugees);
- 3x4-size photo;
- a receipt confirming the payment of service fee (payment can be made in a bank or at an operator. accepting the application, by a bank card).



TERMS OF SERVICE AND SERVICE FEE FOR GRANTING CITIZENSHIP OF GEORGIA UNDER REGULAR PROCEDURE:

- on the 80th calendar day – GEL 50;
- on the 60th calendar day – GEL 100;
- on the 40th calendar day- GEL 200;
- within 20 calendar day – GEL 300.

The application form and the enclosed documents shall be produced in the official (Georgian) language. In case the document(s) is(are) compiled in other language, the document shall be translated, and the translation shall be certified by a notary.



WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR APPLYING FOR GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP UNDER SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE?

If your spouse is a citizen of Georgia and you want to become a Georgian citizen too, national legislation provides for simplified procedures for acquisition of citizenship. For this you should:

- have a copy of document certifying that you have been legally and continuously residing in Georgia for the past 5 years prior to submitting an application (a copy of ID);
- know the official (Georgian) language, history of Georgia and the basic principles of law.
- there are no grounds for refusal to grant Georgian citizenship by naturalisation



WHAT DOCUMENTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED FOR GRANTING GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP UNDER SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE?

- a filled-out application for granting citizenship of Georgia under simplified procedure ;
- a copy of birth certificate (if a person was born abroad);
- a copy of marriage certificate;
- a copy of document confirming Georgian citizenship of the spouse (ID, passport);
- a copy of document evidencing that a person has been legally and continuously residing in Georgia for the past 5 years prior to submitting an application (a copy of ID);
- 3x4-size photo;
- a receipt confirming the payment of service fee (payment can be made in a bank or at an operator accepting the application, by a bank card).

Terms of service and service fee for granting citizenship of Georgia under simplified procedure is similar to the one applicable to regular procedure.



WHAT CRITERIA SHALL BE MET BY A PERSON TO QUALIFY FOR GRANTING GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP BY WAY OF EXCEPTION?

- to be a citizen of another country who has special merit before Georgia or for whom the granting of Georgian citizenship is based on state interests;
- to know the official language (Georgian);
- to know the history of Georgia and the fundamental principles of law;

there are no grounds for refusal to grant Georgian citizenship by naturalisation

In assessing the above-mentioned state interests, the following circumstances shall be taken into account:

A) a citizen of another country considers Georgia his/her homeland and he/she is:

A.a.) a person residing in a occupied territory of Georgia or he/she is a IDP in Georgia;

A.b.) a person who emigrated from Georgia at different times due to political considerations or socio-economic situation.

B) a citizen of another country who is investing in Georgia or has invested in Georgia through which has made a significant contribution in the development of the Country's economy;

C) Citizen of another country is successful in sport, science and/or art and wants to continue his/her performance on behalf of Georgia.

WHAT DOCUMENTS SHALL A PERSON SUBMIT FOR ACQUISITION OF GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP BY WAY OF EXCEPTION?

- a filled-out application for granting Georgian citizenship by way of exception (an application form is available at a branch of the Public Service Hall or a territorial office of the Public Service Development Agency);
- a copy of Passport or proof of identity and citizenship document;
- a copy of birth certificate (if a person was born abroad and possess the document);
- a letter of recommendation on granting citizenship of Georgia to a foreign citizen by at least 2 Georgian citizens or legal persons registered in Georgia;
- 3x4-size photo;
- if a citizen of another country is investing or has made an investment, he/she is a successful athlete, scientist or artist – the document confirming this.
- a receipt confirming the payment of service fee (payment can be made in a bank or at an operator accepting the application, by a bank card).

An interested person is also entitled to send an application on granting citizenship by way of exception, with attached documents to the President of Georgia by post, personally.

Please note: Documents issued (verified) in another state (other than identity documents) must be submitted after legalization or apostille, together with a translation certified by Georgian legislation, unless otherwise provided by the international treaty or agreement of Georgia.

TERMS OF SERVICE AND SERVICE FEE FOR GRANTING CITIZENSHIP OF GEORGIA BY WAY OF EXCEPTION:

- on the 80th calendar day – GEL 250;
- on the 60th calendar day – GEL 350;
- within 30 calendar day – GEL 500.

The application form may be produced in three (Georgian, Russian, English) languages. In case the document(s) is(are) compiled in other language, the document shall be translated, and the translation shall be certified by a notary.

WHAT CRITERIA SHALL BE MET BY A PERSON TO QUALIFY FOR GRANTING GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP BY WAY OF ITS RESTORATION?

Georgian citizenship shall be granted by way of its restoration to persons whose citizenship has been terminated:

- a) unlawfully;
- b) by renunciation of Georgian citizenship;
- c) as a result of the choice of his/her parent(s).

Persons shall be granted Georgian citizenship by way of its restoration if they meet the following requirements:

- a) know the official language of Georgia within the established limits;
- b) there are no grounds for refusal to grant Georgian citizenship by naturalisation.

These requirements do not apply to restoration Georgian citizenship to persons whose citizenship has been terminated unlawfully.

WHAT DOCUMENTS SHALL A PERSON SUBMIT FOR GRANTING GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP BY WAY OF ITS RESTORATION?

- a filled-out application for granting Georgian citizenship by way of its restoration;
- One of the following documents:
 - a) Copies of those documents certifying that the interested person was Georgian citizen in accordance with the Law;
 - b) A document certifying unlawful termination of citizenship of Georgia;
 - c) A document certifying the abandonment of Georgian citizenship;
 - d) A document certifying the termination of Georgian citizenship as a result of parents' choice
- 3x4-size photo;
- a receipt confirming the payment of service fee (payment can be made in a bank or at an operator accepting the application, by a bank card).

TERMS OF SERVICE AND SERVICE FEE FOR GRANTING CITIZENSHIP OF GEORGIA UNDER SPECIAL PROCEDURE

- on the 30th calendar day – GEL 100;
- within 20 calendar day – GEL 150.

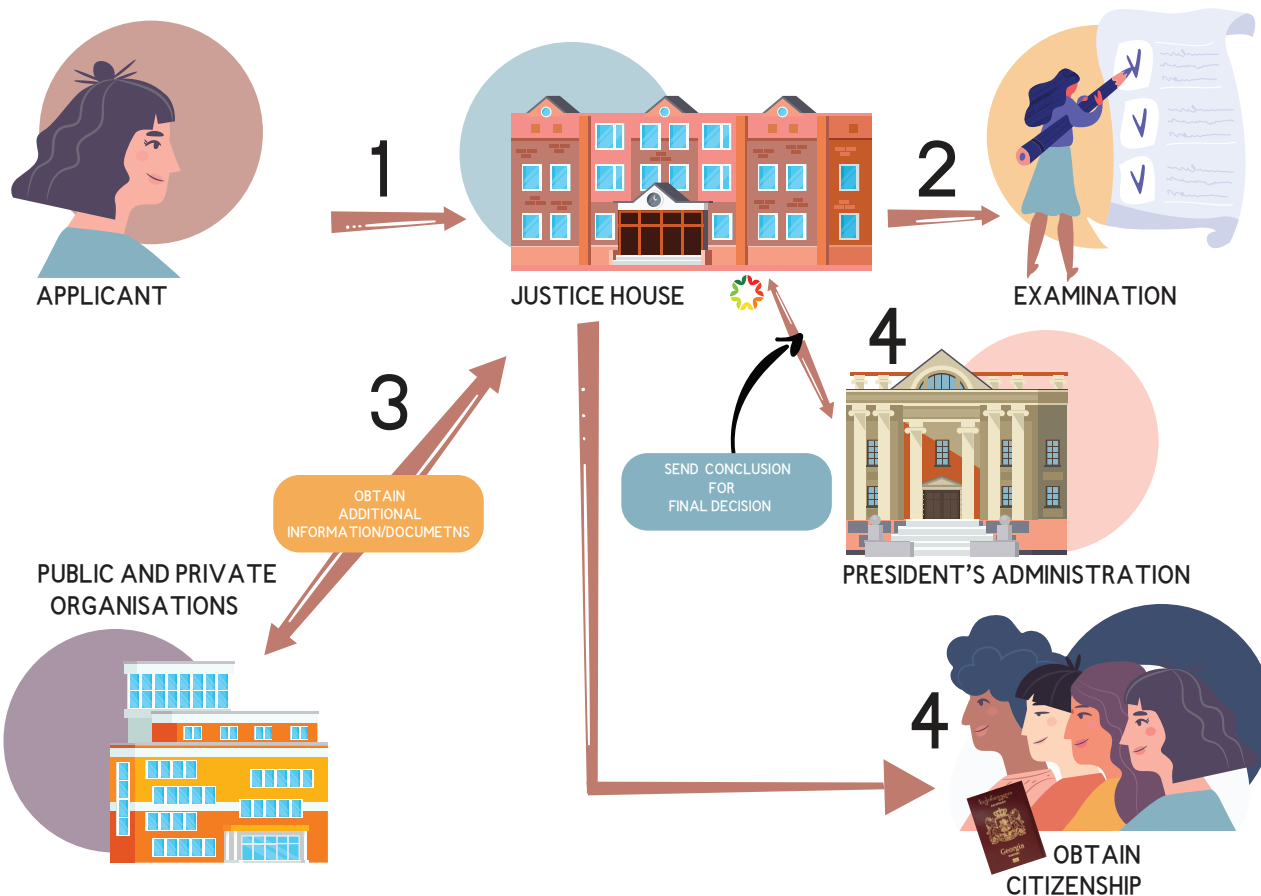
A PROCEDURE OF ACQUISITION OF GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP

The procedure includes the following stages:

- an application is submitted at a branch of the Public Service Hall or at any territorial office of the Public Services Development Agency;
- an applicant takes a test, following which his/her Georgian language skills, the knowledge of Georgian history and the basic principles of law are checked; https://sda.gov.ge/?page_id=5123
- if the applicant passes the test, the case is further considered by the Agency (it may require additional documents and check, whether there are any grounds for rejecting the citizenship application);
- upon consideration of the case, the Agency makes a decision on whether to grant the citizenship of Georgia to a particular applicant or to turn down his/her citizenship application;
- the Agency's conclusion on granting/rejecting Georgian citizenship to an applicant shall be referred to the Georgian President, who will make the final decision;
- a timeframe for making final decision on the issue of granting Georgian citizenship shall not exceed 3 months from the date of registration of the application;
- a person who has been awarded Georgian citizenship shall apply to a branch of the Public Service Hall or any territorial office of the Public Services Development Agency for an identity card of the citizen of Georgia;
- a person who has been denied Georgian citizenship is entitled to reapply in a year.

The decision of the President of Georgia on granting citizenship of Georgia under regular or simplified procedure or by way of exception cannot be appealed.

SCHEME ON THE PROCEDURE OF ACQUISITION OF GEORGIAN CITIZENSHIP



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need free legal advice on the acquisition of Georgian citizenship through naturalization, assistance in collecting and preparing the necessary documents and their submission to Public Service Development Agency, please contact:



NGO Innovations and Reforms Center (IRC) (if you are a stateless person)

This is the partner of UNHCR providing free legal assistance to stateless persons in Georgia.



2 Davit Gamreli Street (Axis Palace building),
4th floor, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia



(+995 32) 255 20 01/02



(+995) 577 614 191; (+995) 577 614 199



NGO Article 42 of the Constitution (if you are a refugee or humanitarian status holder)

This is the partner of UNHCR providing free legal assistance to asylum-seekers, refugees and humanitarian status holders in Georgia.



11a Akaki Gakhokidze Street, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia
(+995 32) 299 88 56



Hotline: (+995) 593 111 405



Public Service Development Agency (PSDA)

This is the main State authority, under the Ministry of Justice, responsible for issuing certificates and documents regarding your status in Georgia, including consideration of citizenship application.



2 Sanapiro Street, 0105, Tbilisi, Georgia



(+995 32) 240 54 05



Hotline: (+995 32) 240 10 10



info@sda.gov.ge; info@psh.gov.ge



<http://psh.gov.ge>



საპარტუკო სახელმწიფო
დაცემის
PUBLIC DEFENDER
(OMBUDSMAN)
OF GEORGIA

Public Defender of Georgia (PDO) – Ombudsmen

This is a Constitutional Body overseeing observance of human rights and freedoms in Georgia. You may address PDO if you consider your rights in Georgia are not fully respected.



150 David Agmashenebeli Ave., 0112, Tbilisi, Georgia
Hotline: 1481 (functions 24/7)



info@ombudsmen.ge



Legal Aid Service (LAS)

LAS is the main legal aid provider in Georgia. You may refer to LAS for free legal consultation irrespective of your status in Georgia.

📍 14 Tamar Mepe Ave., 0112, Tbilisi, Georgia

☎ (+995 32) 292 00 55

✉ info@legalaid.ge



World Vision Georgia

This is the partner of UNHCR working on community mobilization activities and social assistance for asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons in Georgia.

📍 53 A. Tsagareli Street, 0194, Tbilisi, Georgia

☎ (+995) 577 045 645

✉ multiservicecentre.wv@gmail.com



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Regional Representation in Georgia

This is the main international organization in Georgia working closely with the Georgian authorities on asylum and statelessness issues. You may refer to UNHCR for legal advice and assistance.

📍 2a Kazbegi Ave., 0161, Tbilisi, Georgia

☎ (+995 32) 238 62 02; (+995) 577 415 610

✉ geotbprt@unhcr.org

🕒 Reception hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 17:00





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